

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

HAER No. CA-198

Central Pacific Transcontinental Railroad, Tunnel 23
Southern Pacific Donner Pass Route Tunnels
Milepost 132.69
Applegate vicinity
Placer County
California

For written information regarding Tunnel 23, please refer to Central Pacific Transcontinental Railroad (HAER No. CA-196). Note also that all references to tunnel portals are given in Southern Pacific Railroad terminology. Headquartered in San Francisco, the SP considered all trains heading *away* from San Francisco to be eastbound, all trains heading *toward* San Francisco to be westbound, regardless of actual cardinal direction. Thus a train heading north from Los Angeles to Portland would be westbound until it passed San Francisco, at which time it would become eastbound. Similarly, the railroad referred to all tunnels and other structures along its lines in the same fashion, with tunnels always having west and east portals. Direction of view in the captions will indicate cardinal direction.

Documentation: 4 photographs (1997)

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PHOTOGRAPHS

- CA-198-1 West portal of Tunnel 23, contextual view to north-northeast, 135mm lens. Camera position is approximately centerline of original Central Pacific Transcontinental line, and bypassed Tunnel "0" (1873) (HAER CA-199) is hidden behind vegetation at center; original line was relocated to present position at right during construction of new line at left in 1909.
- CA-198-2 East portal of Tunnel 23, contextual view to south-southwest from within cut, 135mm lens.
- CA-198-3 West portal of Tunnel 23, view to north, 135mm lens. Concrete foundation in right foreground was from "telltale," a simple post-and-beam frame that spanned the tracks with lengths of rope suspended from the beam. In the days when brakemen were required to be on, and walk along, the tops of freight cars to set brakes, the "telltale" ropes would strike the unwary to warn of the tunnel ahead, allowing them to lie flat and avoid being struck by the tunnel portal.
- CA-198-4 East portal of Tunnel 23, view to south-southwest, 135mm lens.